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Attorney Docket No.: LAUPNZ00100

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Date: December 7, 2005

Signature: 

(Laura Shires)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,018  
Confirmation No.: 8804  
Filing Date: March 11, 2004  
Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM  
Examiner: G. Dawson  
Group Art Unit: 3731

## RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 23, 2005 for which a response was due on November 23, 2005. Applicant submits a request for one-month extension of time herewith. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendment to the Drawings** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.